

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NUMBER: Senate Bill 1126

SHORT TITLE: Revise Teacher Competency Testing

SPONSOR(S): Senators Lee, Winner, Et al

FISCAL IMPACT					
	Yes ()	No ()	No Estimate Available ()		
	<u>FY 1998-99</u>	<u>FY 1999-00</u>	<u>FY 2000-01</u>	<u>FY 2001-02</u>	<u>FY 2002-03</u>
REVENUES					
EXPENDITURES		\$500,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
Estimated cost of developing and administering the new teacher assessments					
Tuition and fees for teachers in remediation programs. @ \$1,738 per teacher, with cost increasing 3% per year..		Total Cost cannot be estimated at this time.			
POSITIONS:					
PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S) & PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED:	State Board of Education, Local Boards of Education, Board of Governors of the UNC				
EFFECTIVE DATE:	Upon ratification				

BILL SUMMARY: May 14, 1998

1997-98 school year. Amends GS 115C-105.38A (teacher competency tests) to direct each assistance team assigned to a low-performing school in the 1997-98 school year to identify staff members designated by the team as Category 3 teachers and to determine whether lack of general knowledge contributed to that designation. If so, that staff member must be reported to

the State Board of Education before June 5, 1998, and will be required to demonstrate general knowledge by passing a test designated by the State Board. Other staff members at those schools will not be required to take the competency test.

1998-99 school year. Adds new provisions for 1998-99 only. Authorizes either the principal or the assistance team assigned to a low-performing school to recommend to State Board that a certified staff member take a general knowledge test, but only if the principal or team determines that performance is impaired by the staff member's lack of general knowledge.

1999-2000 school year and thereafter. Directs State Board to develop a performance assessment for both teaching presentation skills and subject matter knowledge. Beginning with the 1999-2000 school year, either the principal or assistance team assigned to low-performing school may recommend that certified staff member receive an evaluation using the performance assessment, but only if the staff member received a below standard or unsatisfactory rating on at least one of the functions of the teacher performance assessment instrument or other standard adopted by the State Board, and that function is related to either presentation skills, subject matter knowledge, or both.

Retesting; dismissal. GS 115C-105.38A now provides that teacher who fails to pass the State Board's competency test must complete a remediation plan and then re-take the test. If the teacher fails a second time, a second remediation plan must be completed and the teacher must take the test a third time. Upon a third failure, dismissal proceedings may be commenced. This bill amends the statute to provide that dismissal proceedings may be initiated after the second failure and deletes provisions for a second remediation plan and third testing.

The Committee Substitute requires the State Board of Education to use funds appropriated to the Department of Public Instruction or State Aid to Local School Administrative Units to pay for development and implementation of the new assessments.

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY:

In FY1997-98 fewer teachers in the low performing schools would take the current general knowledge test under this bill. Approximately 250 teachers will take the general knowledge exam under the current law. An estimated 55-60 teachers have been designated as Category 3 and would be required to take the examination under this bill.

For FY1998-99 the teachers that might be required to take the examination cannot be estimated, but it is assumed that it will be fewer than under the current statutes.

Subparagraph (g) of this bill will require the State Board of Education to develop new performance assessments. This assessments will be given to certified staff identified as below standard or unsatisfactory under the procedures set out in this subparagraph..

The costs of developing the new assessments are based upon preliminary estimates from the Department of Public Instruction. The cost of administering the new assessments in future years will vary depending on the number of teachers identified by the principal or the assistance team as needing evaluation.

Funds are available within funds appropriated to the State Board of Education to pay for the development of the assessments.

Remediation costs under this bill should be lower because of fewer teachers undergoing remediation and a shorter duration than under current law.

Actual remediation cost per teacher have risen since last fiscal year and will rise 3% per year over the next five years.

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS:

FISCAL RESEARCH DIVISION

733-4910

PREPARED BY: James D. Johnson

APPROVED BY: Tom Covington

DATE: May 20, 1998



Signed Copy Located in the NCGA Principal Clerk's Offices